

effort is made to separate them from the contaminating influence of prison, while, at the same time, the fullest opportunity will be afforded them, owing to the "license" provisions, of starting life afresh in a respectable way.

The detention of habitual criminals is the subject-matter of Part II. of the Bill, and power is given, where a person is convicted on indictment of a crime and subsequently the offender admits or is found by the jury to be an habitual criminal and the court passes a sentence of penal servitude, if of opinion that by reason of his criminal habits and mode of life it is expedient for the protection of the public that the offender should be kept in detention for a lengthened period of years, the court may pass a further sentence ordering that on the determination of the sentence of penal servitude the offender be detained during His Majesty's pleasure, such detention being called "preventive detention."

In order that a person be found an habitual criminal, the jury must be satisfied that he has been three times previously convicted of a crime, and that at the time when he committed the crime for which he is to be sentenced he was leading persistently a dishonest or criminal life. The word "crime," with reference to this subject-matter, is to mean any felony, coining offence, obtaining goods or money by false pretences, conspiracy to defraud, and any misdemeanour under section 58 of the Larceny Act, 1861. The accused person is only to be put on his trial as an habitual criminal after pleading guilty to, or conviction for, the crime with which he is charged, and a charge of being an habitual criminal is not to be inserted in an indictment without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and unless seven days' notice has been given that it is intended to insert such charge. It is also provided that a person sentenced to preventive detention may, notwithstanding anything in the Criminal Appeal Act, 1907, appeal against the sentence without the leave of the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Perhaps one of the most important clauses of this measure, and one that will require very careful consideration, is clause